

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

By this amendment, Applicants seek to insert replacement FIGS. 7A-7C in place of FIGS. 7A-7C provided in the Amendment and Reply Under 37 §1.111 filed on October 12, 2004. In addition, Applicants seek to enter an amended paragraph providing a brief description of replacement FIGS. 7A-7C after paragraph 0047, on page 19 of the specification as originally filed. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification as originally filed on page 34, paragraph 0092, wherein U.S. Patent No. 5,668,005 (the '005 patent) is incorporated by reference. The '005 patent discloses the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 8 and provides support for the description of FIGS. 7A-7C at column 9, lines 4-7. Since the '005 patent was incorporated by reference in its entirety into the present specification as originally filed, the foregoing amendments to the drawings and specification do not add new matter to the specification. *See* MPEP § 608.01(p).

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 2, 4, 7-19, 21-25, 29, 44-46, 51 and 52 are pending in the application, with claim 2 being the independent claim. Claim 2 has been amended to specify that the mutant reverse transcriptase is a M-MLV reverse transcriptase. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the specification as filed as well as in the originally filed claims. Claims 7, 10, 51 and 52 have also been amended to provide for correct claim dependency. Claims 4, 8, 9, 21-23 and 29 are withdrawn but have been amended to provide for correct claim dependency. Claims 3, 20, 26-28, and 47 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the

subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Applicants would also like to bring to the Examiner's attention the fact that the Applicants mistakenly listed the status of claims 4, 8, 9, 19-23, 25 and 29 as "Previously Presented" in the Amendment and Reply Under 37 §1.111 filed on October 12, 2004. The correct status of these claims, as stated in the Office Action dated March 31, 2005, is "Withdrawn." Applicants apologize for this error and hope that it did not cause any confusion on the behalf of the Examiner.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Sequence Rules

On page 2 of the Office Action dated March 31, 2005, the Examiner asserts that SEQ ID NO: 8 contains an error of duplication of nucleotides 1379-1438, and, consequently a duplication of amino acids 121-140. By the Amendment and Submission of Substitute Sequence Listing Under 37 C.F.R. §1.825(a) and submission of Computer-Readable and Paper copies of Amended Sequence Listing filed herewith, Applicants have corrected these duplications. Thus, SEQ ID NO: 8 is in compliance with the sequence rules and the objection is now moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are therefore respectfully requested.

Objections to the Drawings

On page 2 of the Office Action dated March 31, 2005, the Examiner objects to the drawings provided in Figure 8 for allegedly containing an error of duplication of nucleotides 1379-1438, and, consequently a duplication of amino acids 121-140. As Applicants pointed out in a telephone conference with the Examiner on July 18, 2005, the Examiner mistakenly directed his objection to Figure 8, which is not present in the pending application, instead of Figure 7. Therefore it is the Applicants' understanding that the Examiner actually objects to Figure 7 for allegedly containing an error of duplication of nucleotides 1379-1438, and, consequently a duplication of amino acids 121-140. By way of the amendments presented herein, Applicants provide replacement drawings of FIGS. 7A-7C, which have been amended to remove the duplication of nucleotides 1379-1438, and consequently, amino acids 121-140. Thus, the objection to the drawings is now moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings are therefore respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

On page 3 of the Office Action dated March 31, 2005, the Examiner objects to claims 20, 28 and 47. Solely in an effort to expedite prosecution, and without acquiescing with the propriety of the objections, Applicants have cancelled claims 20, 28 and 47 thus rendering the objections of claims 20, 28 and 47 moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to claims 20, 28 and 47 are therefore respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

On page 4 of the Office Action dated March 31, 2005, the Examiner rejects claims 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter with the Applicants regard as the invention. Solely in an effort to expedite prosecution, and without acquiescing with the propriety of the rejection, Applicants have cancelled claims 26 and 27 thus rendering the rejection of claims 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph are therefore respectfully requested.

On page 4 of the Office Action dated March 31, 2005, the Examiner rejects claims 2, 3, 7, 10-18, 24, 26-28, 44-47, 51 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter with the Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner alleges that the claims are indefinite because the sequence is not correct. In accordance with the Examiner's statement that "[c]orrection of the sequence listing and of the Drawings would obviate this rejection," Applicants have (1) corrected the sequence listing by way of the Amendment and Submission of Substitute Sequence Listing Under 37 C.F.R. §1.825(a) and submission of Computer-Readable and Paper copies of Amended Sequence Listing filed herewith and (2) corrected the drawings by way of the amendments presented herein, wherein Applicants provide replacement drawings of FIGS. 7A-7C, which have been amended to remove the duplication of nucleotides 1379-1438, and consequently, amino acids 121-140. Thus, the rejection of claims 2, 3, 7, 10-18, 24, 26-28, 44-47, 51 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second

paragraph, is now moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, are therefore respectfully requested.

Other Matters

Applicants assert that claims 2, 18 and 24 are linking claims as set forth in MPEP § 809.03. Upon the Examiner's acknowledgment that claims 2, 18 and 24 are linking claims, Applicants request that the Examiner allow the claims to the elected species, including the generic linking claims, and thereafter examine and allow claims to the non-elected species that are linked by such allowable linking claims, in accordance with MPEP § 809.04.

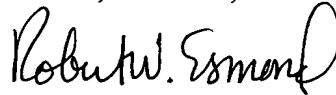
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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